

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7223
BILL NUMBER: SB 263

DATE PREPARED: Feb 2, 2001
BILL AMENDED: Feb 1, 2001

SUBJECT: Poor Relief.

FISCAL ANALYST: Alan Gossard
PHONE NUMBER: 233-3546

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires a township trustee to process only completed applications for Poor Relief. The bill provides circumstances under which a township trustee may authorize the payment of delinquent bills for certain utility services. The bill also allows a township trustee to require individuals needing insulin to make a regular application for Poor Relief assistance before receiving free insulin a second time. The bill also provides that in an appeal for an individual's eligibility for Poor Relief, the Board of Commissioners and the hearing officer may not consider any evidence that was not presented to the trustee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) This bill contains several provisions that potentially can reduce costs or increase reimbursements within a township's Poor Relief program. The aggregate savings that may occur in Indiana's 1,008 township Poor Relief programs can not be projected and will depend largely on individual trustee actions. The following are provisions of the bill that could impact costs or reimbursements in a township's Poor Relief program:

Denial of Assistance - Current law provides that a township may not provide assistance to a person for a period for which the person was ineligible. This bill extends this provision such that another member of the person's household cannot request assistance for the period for which the original applicant was denied assistance.

Completed Application Definition - Current law requires a trustee to act on an application for Poor Relief

within 72 hours of submission. This bill starts the 72 hours upon submission of a "completed" application, with "completed" being defined as an application signed by all members of the household. Since a trustee cannot begin an investigation without the signed consent of all members of a household, this will permit the investigation to begin immediately upon receipt of the completed application.

Work Training - This provision permits the trustee to require Poor Relief recipients to participate in work training offered by a non-profit agency as well as already permitted governmental entities.

Delinquent Utilities - This provision provides that a township is not required to pay delinquent utility bills that are more than 24 months old and that the township is only responsible for delinquent utility bills if the applicant was eligible for Poor Relief at the time the delinquencies were incurred. The bill further limits payment for delinquent utility bills to applicants who actually received the services and were legally responsible for payment. This bill also prevents a utility company from requiring townships to pay deposits.

Payment for Insulin - This bill provides that after a trustee is presented a second claim for insulin, the trustee may require the person to complete a Poor Relief application and may conduct an investigation to determine the financial need for the insulin. The township shall continue to furnish insulin until the trustee completes an investigation and determines the individual's ability to pay. (Current law provides that, if a doctor certifies that the Poor Relief applicant is unable to pay for the insulin, the trustee must provide payment.)

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Townships.

Information Sources: